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PAYING GUESTS ENJOY FARM HOMES

A radio talk by Mrs. John S. Williams, farm woman, Charlotte, Vermont, delivered in the home demonstration radio program, September 5, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations.

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Speaking on this program I am representing farm women who are accomodating tourists.

About a decade ago, when farm people were needing more money to educate the family, and make ends meet, the house mother came to the rescue and began to practice the doctrine of self help, that we are hearing about to-day. Farm homes were built with many rooms to accomodate large families. To-day families are generally smaller, less rooms are needed, so the paying guest is now most welcome.

When deciding to appeal to the public we took inventory of our assets that could be offered to the tourists.

We found comfortable homes, many with modern improvements, large airy rooms, interesting colonial furnishings, with improved roads leading to our doors. Among other benefits the automobile has brought to rural people, is the urge to improve home grounds, flower gardens and so-forth. This setting surrounded by the New England atmosphere made the farm women feel they have much to offer the traveling public. Home demonstration agents were consulted, the best features were developed, treasured heir looms were brought from the attic, restored and put into use.

Vermont is often called the "Land of Rocking Chairs and Pie." Chair brings out the idea of rest and recreation and we know New England is noted for good cooking, fresh fruit, vegetables, poultry, milk, cream, butter and cheese-- Yes and Pie. This produces a fair market for farm surplus and gives the boarder food for which he is willing to pay. He enjoys the farm food that is characteristic to the location. Where else does grapefruit taste so good as in Florida? Pecans and peaches are real in Georgia, and sea food should be eaten at the coast to be at its best. Breakfast food in Vermont, with local Jersey cream, maple products real and pure in the Green Mountain State, and so, on and on, each locality has its special attraction.

Families enjoy the country where the children learn nature by contrast. Every child is fascinated in feeding the hens, hunting eggs and watching farm machinery. The purse of the paying guest is also benefited, the cost of board is generally less. He comes to the country and is comfortable in his worn clothes. The whole family does not need an outfit for a farm vacation, that would be required in a fashionable resort. If he remains for a time he enjoys the social farm life, he enters into the pleasures of rural people. While we may be just characters to some, generally speaking, the city people get to be firm friends of his country host and hostess. If he really enjoys his stay he tells his friends. There is a small but rather famous country Inn that developed because two people became stranded, years ago, when their railroad engine broke down. The farm home and people, where they were accomodated so

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appealed to them that they begged to return. Their friends came also and after thirty years the humble home has developed into a most attractive summer home, for many college people and their friends.

After ten years experience with the public, in my farm home, I know, aside from the financial benefit, comes the social uplift and broadening effect upon the farm family. We have absorbed much from the tourists. Throughout the country these contacts have resulted in improved homes and surroundings more advantages in music, art, and higher education for the farm family, more convenience in the home and more opportunity to read and travel. Some of the finest acquaintances and firmest friend-ships have developed.

In return for this, they invite the paying guest to enjoy the farm home during the hot weeks of summer vacation. Autumn in New England is gorgeous, our roads are so good now that a week-end through the White Mountains and on through the Green Mountains across Lake Champlain to the Adirondacks is a memory to treasure all winter. Many come back to enjoy the skiing, coasting, skating and general beauty of the winter season.

We on the farm enjoy you, we want you to enjoy our farm homes. So I wish to leave this last thought with you.

We don't boast of crowded cities,
Where the millions come and go,
But we have our share of beauty
I was raised here and I know,
When God made these "Old Green Mountains."
And these valleys fresh and fair,
He just put his seal upon them
You will find it everywhere.
And when you're right down tired,
And its rest and change you want,
Pack your grip, and some fine morning,
Take a trip through "Old Vermont."